

REMARKS

By the present amendment, new claims 19-20 have been added. Support for the new claims is found on page 6, line 12.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Independent claims 1 and 10 are directed to a liquid crystal display wide viewing angle polarizing film, claims 2-6 and 11-15 depend on claims 1 and 10, respectively, claims 7 and 16 are directed to a production method dependent on claim 1 and 10, respectively, claims 8 and 17 are directed to a polarizing adhesion film, and claims 9 and 18 are directed to a liquid crystal display dependent on claim 8 and 17, respectively. New claims 19 and 20 depend on claims 1 and 10, respectively.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-11 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 2000-321426 to Nitto Denko, the publication on November 24, 2000 of the Japanese application corresponding to US 6,404,469 (Kitagawa), to which reference is made in the Office Action, and claims 3-4 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kitagawa in view of US 6,245,399 (Sahouani).

It is alleged in the Office Action that Kitagawa "is silent regarding whether or not the polarizing layer 11 is laminated on optical compensation film 13 via an adhesive" and that it would have been obvious not to use an adhesive "because the optical properties of adhesives often caused undesirable optical effects."

The rejections are respectfully traversed. Contrary to the position set forth in the Office Action, Kitagawa is not silent regarding how to bond the polarizing film and the protective films. On the contrary, Kitagawa states at col. 3, lines 43-49:

The process of bonding the polarizing film and the transparent protective film, particularly the compensating plate, can be carried out using a suitable method. Typically, the bonding process is carried out using an adhesive such as a tacky agent. In particular, if the polarizing film is made of a polyvinyl alcohol series film, a polyvinyl alcohol series adhesive can be preferably used in view of stability in the bonding process. (Emphasis added.)

Further, in all examples, a "cellulose triacetate film [the transparent protective film] was bonded, via a polyvinyl alcohol series adhesive layer, onto one side of a polarizing film" (col. 10, lines 22-23).

The reliance on lamination with an adhesive in Kitagawa corresponds to the prior art belief that dependability of a laminate under severe conditions (high temperature and/or humidity, rapid heating and/or cooling), and stability of compensating properties of the laminate, depended on the use of an adhesive layer.

Next, Sahouani discloses that "a lyotropic liquid crystal containing dichroic dye materials is coated on a solid substrate" (claim 3 of Sahouani), but Sahouani completely fails to teach or suggest using a compensating film as a substrate.

In contrast, the present inventors have discovered that when the polarizing layer is directly laminated on the optical compensation film, as recited in the present claims, advantages in a better stress relaxation and improved brightness uniformity can be obtained. Since the teaching in Kitagawa is clearly limited to the use of an adhesive layer, Kitagawa completely fails to teach or suggest this feature and its advantages. Further, Sahouani fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kitagawa. Therefore, the present claims are not obvious over Kitagawa taken alone or in any combination with Sahouani.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

By: Nicolas Seckel  
Nicolas E. Seckel  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 44,373

Atty. Docket No. 020612  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel: (202) 659-2930  
Fax: (202) 887-0357

NES:rep